

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MEMORIAL DAY PRAYER, MYRTLE  
HILL CEMETERY GIVEN BY REV.  
WARREN JONES

**HON. BOB BARR**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 27, 2001*

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Rev. Warren Jones of Rome, Georgia, has long been an active member of the community. From his participation during college in every organization on campus except the Women's and the Home Economics Clubs, to the 18 agencies with which he currently volunteers, in addition to being a member of the Silver Haired Congress and Georgia's Silver Legislature, Rev. Jones has always believed in furthering the good of the community.

This prayer was delivered by Rev. Jones at the Memorial Day Dedication of the 1917–1918 Doughboy Statue at Veterans Plaza, Myrtle Hill Cemetery in Rome, Georgia on May 28, 2001. It contains important words and principles for all of us.

Let us pray:

To the God of Abraham, Isaac and of Jacob, to the Blessed Mother, and to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ:

We lift our voice in prayer on this Memorial Day to remember and give thanks for all those who have ever worn the uniform of our country; Army, Navy, Marine, Coast Guard, Air Force, Merchant Marine, WAC, WAVE, SPAR, Lady Marine, WASP.

Let us remember that Thomas Jefferson wrote "the God who gave us life gave us liberty at the same time." But for more than 225 years, each generation has learned anew "Freedom is not free."

Across the years civilians and service personnel have sung these songs:

For the Army:

God of our Fathers  
Thy love divine hath led us in the past.  
In this free land by thee our lot is cast.

For the Navy:

Eternal Father, strong to save  
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
Who bidst the might ocean deep  
It's own appointed limits keep  
O hear us when we cry to thee,  
For those in peril on the sea.

For the Air Force:

Lord guard and guide the men who fly  
Through the great spaces of the sky,  
Be with them traversing the air,  
Uphold them with thy saving grace  
O God protect the men who fly  
Through lonely ways beneath the sky.

Today, we remember all the men and women who have served; who have sacrificed, who have been prisoners of war, and who are serving today—all around the world. And we remember they were young.

Especially do we remember this day—and every day—those missing in action, and their families.

God on high, hear my prayer  
He is young—He is afraid  
And I am old and will be gone.  
Bring him peace, bring him joy  
He is young, he is only a boy.  
You can take, you can give,

Let him live, let him live, Bring him home!  
(Les Miserables)

Four score and seven years have passed since Romans gathered on this very hill to bury our President's wife—Roman Ellen Louise Axson.

For the next four score and seven years, and all the years to follow, keep us ever mindful this is one nation under God.

Amen.

## A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING WORK OF THE CITY OF HEATH, OHIO FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 27, 2001*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues:

Whereas, the exemplary work of the Heath Fire Department has earned them the recognition of the Congressional Fire Service Institute for outstanding work in providing protection to their community; and,

Whereas, the partnership between the Fire Department and the city is a strong and essential component for serving the community effectively; and

Whereas, the relationship that has been cultivated between the Newark Fire Department and the city that it serves has proven to be an effective element for fire prevention;

Therefore, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the impressive accomplishments of the Heath Fire Department that has brought honor, pride, and security to their community.

## ROMANIA'S CHAIRMANSHIP OF OSCE

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 27, 2001*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this year, Romania holds the chairmanship of the 55-nation Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Obviously, this is one of the most important positions in the OSCE and, as Romania is a little more than half way through its tenure, I would like to reflect for a moment on some of their achievements and challenges.

First and foremost, I commend Romanian Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana for his leadership. In late January Minister Geoana met in the Capitol with members of the Helsinki Commission which I co-chair and again two weeks ago at the Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Paris, we had a helpful exchange of views. He has demonstrated, in word and deed, that he understands how important the role of chairman is to the work of the OSCE. His personal

engagement in Belarus and Chechnya, for example, illustrates the constructive possibilities of the chairmanship. I appreciate Foreign Minister Geoana's willingness to speak out on human rights concerns throughout the region.

As Chair-in-Office, we also hope that Romania will lead by example as it continues to implement economic and political reform and to further its integration into western institutions. In this regard, I would like to draw attention to a few of the areas the Helsinki Commission is following with special interest.

First, many members of the Helsinki Commission have repeatedly voiced our concerns about manifestations of anti-Semitism in Romania, often expressed through efforts to rehabilitate or commemorate Romania's World War II leadership.

I was therefore encouraged by the swift and unequivocal response by the Romanian Government to the inexcusable participation of General Mircea Chelaru in a ceremony unveiling a bust of Marshal Ion Antonescu, Romania's war-time dictator. I particularly welcome President Iliescu's statement that "Marshal Ion Antonescu was and is considered a war criminal for the political responsibility he assumed by making [an] alliance with Hitler."

I encourage the Romanian Government to give even greater meaning to this statement and to its stated commitment to reject anti-Semitism. Clearly, the next step should be the removal of Antonescu statues from public lands, including those at the Jilava prison and in Slobozia, Piatra Neamt, and Letcani.

Mr. Speaker, I also appreciate the recent statement by Prime Minister Nastase that journalists should not be sent to jail for their writings. But frankly, it is not enough for the Prime Minister merely to reject efforts to increase the criminal penalties that journalists are now vulnerable to in Romania.

Non-governmental organizations have spoken to this issue with one voice. In fact, since the beginning of this year, NGOs have renewed their call for changes to the Romanian penal code that would bring it into line with OSCE standards. Amnesty International, Article 19, the Global Campaign for Free Expression, the International Helsinki Federation and the Romanian Helsinki Committee have all urged the repeal of articles 205, 206, 207, 236, 236(1), 238 and 239 from the criminal code and, as appropriate, their replacement by civil code provisions. I understand the Council of Europe made similar recommendations to Romania in 1997.

Moreover, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media has said, clearly and repeatedly, that criminal defamation and insult laws are not consistent with OSCE commitments and should be repealed. There is no better time to take this step than now, while Romania holds the Chairmanship of the OSCE.

Public authorities, of course, should be protected from slander and libel, just like every one else. Clearly, civil codes are more than adequate to achieve this goal. Accordingly, in order to bring Romanian law into line with Romania's international obligations and commitments, penal sanctions for defamation or insult

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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